

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /090 W  
-----126628 071512Z /45

R 071050Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3570  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
USUN NEW YORK 2534

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10246

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, PORG, KNI, SF, US  
SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: POST-CONFERENCE PRESS COMMENTARY

REF: (A) LAGOS 9875, (B) USIS LAGOS 011845Z SEP 77,  
(C) LAGOS 10112, (D) LAGOS 021644Z SEP 77

1. POST-APARTHEID CONFERENCE COMMENTARY IN THE LAGOS PRESS  
HAD BEEN GENERALLY CRITICAL OF CONFERENCE RESULTS AND ROLE  
PLAYED BY WESTERN POWERS. PRESS COMMENTARY GENERALLY  
EMPHASIZED NEED FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND ARMED STRUGGLE  
IN THE FUTURE.

2. AS REPORTED REF C, COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA  
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PRESENTED AN ELOQUENT DEFENSE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ROLE  
AT CONFERENCE ON TELEVISION AUGUST 28. BY END OF WEEK GARBA  
HAD EXPLICITLY AND IMPLICITLY COME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM  
OF HIS STATEMENTS. THE DAILY TIMES, ONE OF TWO NATIONAL  
DAILIES AND A PAPER WHICH HAS LONG PLAYED STRONG ANTI-  
AMERICAN ROLE IN LOCAL PRESS, HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MORE  
OUTSPOKEN CRITICS. ON SEPTEMBER 2 SCATHING DAILY

TIMES EDITORIAL (REPORTED REF D) CRITICIZED YOUNG, US POLICY AND IMPLICITLY GARBA SAYING, "WE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO ANXIOUS TO DEFEND AND EXPLAIN HIS (YOUNG'S) CANDOUR. WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE CONCERNED TO IMPRESS UPON HIM OUR OWN VISION AND DETERMINATION. AND THIS WE HAVE NOT DONE WELL AT ALL." EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH THE COMMENT, "...WE CANNOT AS A NATION AFFORD TO SUFFER IMPERTINENCE GLADLY, NOT EVEN FROM A BLACK ENVOY FROM AMERICA. AND WE MUST NEVER ALLOW SENTIMENTALITY TO BLIND US TO THE HARSH TRUTHS OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY."

3. SEPTEMBER 1 DAILY SKETCH (REF B) FLATLY STATED "...WE ARE UNABLE TO AGREE WITH BRIGADER GARBA THAT ANY OF THE COUNTRY'S MASS MEDIA HAVE BEEN UNCHARITABLE TO MR. YOUNG."

4. CRITICISM OF US POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AS WELL AS ROLE IN CONFERENCE IN PARTICULAR, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE UNTIL NIGERIANS PERCEIVE CONCRETED MANIFESTATIONS OF SUCCESS FOR THEIR OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED ABOUT CRITICISM IN PRESS TO DATE. MORE NOTABLE HOWEVER, IS CRITICISM OF GARBA FOR HIS DEFENSE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG. GIVEN THE ANTI-AMERICAN SOURCES OF COMMENTARY, HE MAY SIMPLY SUFFER FROM TOO CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH WRONG PEOPLE AT WRONG TIME. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THERE ARE THOSE WITHIN GOVERNMENT

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AND MEDIA WHO ARE SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HARASS GARBA, A MAN WITH WHOM SOME ARE ALREADY UNHAPPY. AS DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THE OFFICIAL LINE IS USUALLY SLOW IN EVOLVING IN THE LOCAL MEDIA AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER GARBA WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE TARGET OF THIS TYPE OF CRITICISM, OR EVEN IF MORE POSITIVE COMMENTS MAY APPEAR ON U.S. EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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